

Arlington Bicycle Advisory Committee

Minutes for March 6, 2006

Board members present were Jack Johnson, Stephan Miller, Scott Smith, and Ron Sender. Doug Greenfield, Parris Kellermann, Paulo Marinelli, and Joey Glushko also attended.

The meeting was called to order at 7:31.

Introductions; sharing local conversations about bicycling. Joey recommended we see the "Wired to Win" Tour de France documentary film at the Museum of Science (Omni Theatre). Jack told us a story about the National Bike Summit; some of the delegates met with the President (of the US).

*The minutes of the February meeting were approved with the corrections recommended by Scott.

Feedback from recent events.

The Winter Social. Ron was surprised at the turnout because the weather was so mild (!). Conversations with Andy Rubel were popular after the event. We thank Linda Gutman for providing hot cocoa again this year. Jack would like to wrap up the plans for next year's Social at an earlier date. Doug suggested a talk on planning for going on a bike tour.

National Bike Summit. Jack extended his invitation to visit our Members of Congress. Safe Routes to School was a popular topic of discussion. LAB is devising training programs to produce trainers for classroom instruction on bicycling. There was also an effort to make sure that the money allocated to the states for alternative transportation actually gets used.

Jack showed us information about designating Bicycle Friendly Communities. Davis, California, was recently awarded the platinum level of Bicycle Friendly Community. We discussed some of bicycle-related amenities available in that town. Jack also noted that Davis is beginning to have traffic problems because high real estate values forcing longer commutes.

Discuss of related Town Meeting warrant articles. We reviewed the warrant article regarding bikeway snow clearance. This committee has not been in favor of plowing the Bike Path for a number of reasons. Scott noted that Linwood to Lake Street is the best route to the Hardy School for walkers and bicyclists. He proposed a pilot program of plowing from Swan Place to Alewife Station.

We thought that documenting how the abutters feel now is a very important set of data. We further discussed the political mechanics of proceeding. Scott suggested that as the bicycle committee, we should take the view of bicyclists

rather than pedestrians. He added that we should make sure that any damage to the path caused by plowing be repaired every spring and that the path be swept free of sand if it is applied. Joey thought that we should compose a letter to the Selectmen outlining our position and requesting that the abutters be consulted. Jack answered that we should compose and deliver the letter before the beginning of Town Meeting.

ACTION ITEM: Jack will draft this letter before Town Meeting.

Discuss possible regional "cleanup day" for Minuteman Bikeway, Saturday May 6. The cleanup was proposed by the Lexington Bicycle Committee and will be sponsored by Starbucks (in Lexington?). Ron volunteered to look into this matter and Stephan and Scott will help.

Discuss route options for the upcoming BIKE-Arlington Tour on May 21. We discussed whether we should start at McClennen Park. Since Summer St. is still ripped up we decided to postpone this venue for yet another year. Scott suggested a start at Spy Pond. Jack informed us that Waldo Park is now open so we could bike through it. Joey suggested a ride along the Mystic River and a ride up River St. She also thought a stop by the Arlington Center for the Arts would be instructive. Another possibility is to start at the Arlington Reservoir with a stop at the Old Schwamb Mill. Doug thought that the old mill might be a nice place to end the tour. We also discussed a stop by one or more of the new schools in Arlington.

ACTION ITEM: Scott and Jack will map out a route before the next meeting.

Update/status on Mass. Ave. redesign project. We discussed the order in which the project will take place. We decided that the pavement in the east needs more immediate attention than anywhere else along Mass. Ave.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:40.

*Designates a vote was taken.

The minutes were taken and submitted by Stephan Miller.